I. Topic Details

A. Title. Molecular Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis

B. Chairman.

Michael J. Weber
Professor of Microbiology
University of Virginia School of Medicine

Vice-chairman.

Michael W. Lieberman
Chairman
Department of Pathology
Fox Chase Cancer Center

C and D. Sub-topics and potential speakers.

1. *Oncogenes, promoters and signal transduction*.
E. Rozengurt, J. Pouyssegur, A. Gilman, J. Northup, N. Colburn, P. Blumberg, L. Cantley, F. McCormick, M. Wigler, A. Saltiel.

2. *Cell biology of oncogene action*.
A. Horwitz, L. Rohrschneider, K. Burridge, J. Cooper, M. Weber, R. Erikson, J. Feramisco, D. Stacey, T. Graf.

3,4. *Regulation of gene expression*.
R. Roeder, R. Tjian, I. Chen (trans-factors).
M. Karin, J. Whitlock, D. Lowy, E. Ziff (cis-elements).
R. Eisenman, T. Curran, M. Oren (nuclear onogenes).
B. de Crombrugghe, M. Lieberman, H. Hanafusa, M. Goldfarb, M. Gottesman (regulation of cellular genes).

5. *Regulation of oncogene action*.
B. Sefton, C. Sherr, J. Bolen (activity of oncogene products).
R. Weinberg, C. Marshall, B. Neel (anti-oncogenes).
G.P. Dotto, H. Herschman (phenotype suppression by normal cells).

6. *Oncogene-carcinogen interactions*.
S. Yuspa, A. Balmain, T. Bowden, T. Slaga (skin).
J. Wogan, M. Anderson, N. Fausto (liver).
M. Barbacid (breast).

7. *Molecular epidemiology of human cancer*.
W. Cavenee, D. Slayman, B. Vogelstein, M. Perucho, E. Chang, R. White.

8. *Molecular approaches to chemical carcinogenesis*.
L. Loeb, J. Whitlock, H. Gelboin, E. Bresnick, I.B. Weinstein.

9. *Molecular approaches to viral carcinogenesis*.
H. zur Hausen, P. Howley, D. Lowy, D. DeMaio (papilloma viruses).
J. Summers, J. Taylor, B. Blumberg (hepatitis).
I. Chen (HTLV).

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E. Years.

First choice: 1989. Copper Mtn Aug 13-18

~~Second choice: 1990~~.

F. Interest.

We are in a period of astonishingly rapid progress in the area of molecular carcinogenesis. As the general principles underlying oncogenesis and growth control are beginning to emerge, we have seen the unification of the areas of viral carcinogenesis with chemical carcinogenesis and of oncogenesis with endocrinology. Since oncogenes are of fundamental significance in cellular homeostasis, issues concerning their action are of interest, not only to those who study cancer, but more broadly to investigators studying gene expression, development, receptor signalling and cellular biochemistry (especially the action of kinases).

The FASEB Carcinogenesis meeting in particular has provided in the past the only forum in which the major separate sub-disciplines involved in studies of carcinogenesis could meet: the chemical and the viral carcinogenesis groups; the persons interested in promotion; molecular biologists and oncogene specialists; and persons studying human cancer. Continued development of the broad, unifying principles in this area will be helped by continuing to bring these groups together.

II. Participation

A. Attendance. There is no question that attendance will be over 100. Even in 1987, when this meeting conflicted directly with the FASEB Protein Kinase meeting, attendance was at that figure. I assume that the mistake of scheduling a directly conflicting meeting will be avoided in the future.

B,C. Participants. We already have a computerized mailing list of over 500 names based on attendance at the related Oncogene Meeting, Cold Spring Harbor Meetings and ICN/UCLA Meetings. This list can readily be expanded. The meeting will be of interest to numerous societies within and outside of FASEB, including the Biological Chemists, Pathologists, Physiologists, Pharmacologists, the Cell Biologists, the American Society for Microbiology, the American Society for Virology and the American Association for Cancer Research.

D. Media. Journals: Science, Nature, Cell, J. Virology, Mol. Cell. Biol., Cancer Research and direct mailings.

III. Level of interest

A. Previous meetings. Previous meetings on this topic were called "Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis." We have modified the title to emphasize its molecular orientation. The meetings were held in Vermont. The 1987 meeting was in mid-July, and had approximately 100 participants. The persons in attendance felt very positively about the value and quality of the meeting. The inter-disciplinary nature of the talks, the fact that the talks were long enough for a topic to be developed at length, and were delivered in general by the Principal Investigators (rather than post-docs and students) were all viewed as positive features, when we conducted an informal survey near the end of the conference. In general, the atmosphere was conducive to the exchange of ideas and to genuine learning. There was less emphasis on naked ego gratification than is apparent at certain meetings

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(which shall remain nameless).

B. The field. As discussed above, the field is rapidly growing. Holding this meeting during alternate years is certainly not too frequent.

C. Conflicts. The major conflict this past year was with the FASEB Protein Kinase meeting. Since many oncogene products are protein kinases, as is the major receptor for tumor promoters, scheduling the Protein Kinase meeting opposite the Carcinogenesis meeting resulted in numerous conflicts. As far as we can tell, there were two main factors which resulted in the greater popularity of the Protein Kinase meeting: 1. Since this was the first time the Protein Kinase meeting was held, there was a novelty factor. 2. There are fewer summer meetings in Colorado.

In addition to the Protein Kinase meeting, there are several other meetings on topics related to this one:

1. The Oncogene Meeting is held at Hood College at the beginning of July. It consists of 10 minute talks almost exclusively devoted to the structure and regulation of oncogenes. There is very little presented which is biological, or which addresses the concerns of those who have studied human systems, chemical carcinogenesis or promotion. Surprisingly little is presented on the mechanisms of oncogene action or the interaction of oncogenes with the cell. There are 500 participants.
2. The Cold Spring Harbor RNA Tumor Virus Meeting is held in May, and has evolved to emphasize virus replication and expression rather than malignant transformation. It also consists of a series of 10 minute talks.
3. There is usually a Gordon Conference on Cancer. This has become very non-molecular.

Thus, although there are other conferences which are related, none of them could reasonably replace the FASEB Conference. However, even these small conflicts would be reduced if the FASEB Conference were moved to Colorado.

IV. Support

We already have been pledged support from the Tobacco Council, and we have initiated contacts with DuPont, Beckman and Biogen. In addition, we expect that the NIH, Hoffman-LaRoche, Glaxo and Upjohn will continue to support this conference, as they have in the past.

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